



Safety Sense

Hunting and

Winter Survival tips



Ten Gun Safety Rules

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1. Always Point a Gun in a Safe Direction.

This one should be self-explanatory. It is the bedrock of all gun safety and is the most important rule. "Never point a gun at anything you're not willing to shoot."

2. Assume That All Guns are Loaded.

When someone tells you a gun is not loaded, that's fine--but don't believe it until you see it for yourself. If you offend your buddy by checking a gun after he's told you it's unloaded, then so be it. Make it a habit to check, no matter what. This is a very important habit to get into.

3. Keep Your Finger Off the Trigger. This is something I see way too often--a distracted or amateur shooter will have his or her finger on the trigger of a gun they are simply carrying or examining. Don't do it! Keep that finger outside the trigger guard until you are ready to shoot, and after shooting, move it back out of the trigger guard.

4. Know What You're Shooting At. Your target is whatever you have decided to shoot. Don't get lax about this. You need to know what you are going to shoot at, what is between you and it, and what is beyond it.

5. Be Familiar With Your Gun. Take the time to learn about the operation and features of the firearm you are planning to use. The time to learn this is not while you are shooting--that is when you need to be learning about grip, shooting positions, trigger control, etc.

6. Don't Shoot at Hard Surfaces. Bullets and shotgun shot can ricochet (glance off) and fly off in an unintended direction. Hard surfaces like metal, rocks, and hard wood can do this too--and they can even send the projectile straight back to the shooter.

7. Don't Rely on a Safety Mechanism. Many guns have a safety device to prevent the gun from firing. These are often reliable, but not always. And some guns have even been known to fire when the safety is released, which naturally leads to the conclusion that safety mechanisms are often useful but are not completely reliable.

8. Load Your Gun When You Need To. Keep every gun unloaded until you're ready to fire it. This is not a practical rule, because guns used for hunting and defense purposes will be needed in a hurry whenever they are needed, and there is no time to be messing around loading your gun when you need it to save your life or to take the game you're hunting.

9. Use the Right Ammunition. Make certain the ammunition you're using is right for your gun. The proper cartridge designation is usually marked on the gun. If you have any doubt, consult the gun's manufacturer or a qualified gunsmith.

10. Pay Attention! It's easy to get distracted when you're having fun, and target shooting can be a lot of fun, especially if you're enjoying it with friends and family.

Take extra care to follow safe gun handling rules, and don't be afraid to correct others when you see them improperly handling firearms--we all need a reminder every now and then.

In a survival situation don't put yourself at risk to frostbite and hypothermia. Keep in mind, surviving in a harsh winter environment can demand the most from your body so never risk overexertion, staying warm and hydrated should be your top priorities





EMERGENCY CAR KIT

Winter Emergency Car Kit

Keep these items in a bag in your vehicle

Battery-powered radio, flashlight, and extra batteries	
Cell phone portable charger	deck of playing cards
Bottled water and nonperishable high-energy foods such as granola bars, raisins, and peanut butter	Sunflower seeds or nuts
Fire extinguisher (5-lb., A-B-C type)	Booster cables
First-aid kit and manual	book to read
A snowbrush and ice scraper	tow rope
A bag of sand to help with traction and a shovel	
Extra windshield fluid	Spare tire and/or repair kit, pump and flares
Old winter boots, hat, gloves, spare clothes and maybe a blanket	

Surviving Black Ice

Black ice can be a serious driving hazard when the temperature dips near or below freezing. Black ice forms when snow, water or other types of condensation melt onto the road surface and refreeze. It's called black ice because it is difficult to see and can blend in with the road's color. It is most common on bridges, overpasses and in shaded sections of the road where it can remain frozen after other parts of the road have thawed. You need to follow certain precautions when driving in winter weather or when there is the potential for black ice to form on the roads.

The first precaution is to always wear your seat belt — something you should be doing anyway. Then, as you drive, watch out for black patches or what appears to be water on the road, as this could be black ice. Just as when driving in the rain, avoid using your cruise control or overdrive because these can cause wheel spin and send your car out of control. Allow a generous following distance behind the vehicle ahead so you'll have ample room to stop or maneuver if you hit ice or need to react quickly. Accelerate slowly to maintain traction and never slam on the brakes, which can cause a skid. If you notice a possible trouble spot ahead, shift into a lower gear to reduce your speed and give you more control of your vehicle. Should these precautions fail and you find yourself beginning to skid, here are a few driving techniques to help you regain control.

If you feel your vehicle beginning to skid, quickly take your foot off the gas, as accelerating only increases your chances of spinning. Also, don't slam on the brakes. Hitting your brakes will send you skidding out of control. If you have a stick shift, push in the clutch or put the transmission in neutral and allow the vehicle's momentum to carry you straight across the ice. In the event that the car begins to skid, turn the steering wheel in the direction of the skid to get the vehicle back on track.



Here are some additional winter driving tips to help keep you safe.

- Turn on your lights to increase your visibility to other motorists.
- Make sure your tread is in good condition.
- Keep your headlights and windshield clean.
- Use low gears to keep traction, especially on hills.
- Don't pass snowplows and sanding trucks. These drivers have limited visibility, and you'll likely find the road in front of them worse than the road behind.
- Don't assume your vehicle can handle all conditions. Even four-wheel and front-wheel-drive vehicles can encounter trouble on winter roads.

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